

M/035/011

From: Wayne Hedberg
To: Minerals
Date: Fri, Sep 24, 1999 11:41 AM
Subject: Kennecott Tailings Spill - Phone call documentation

Rich Borden of KUCC returned my call this morning following up on the status of the clean up actions taking place for a tailings spill that occurred Wednesday (9/22/99) in Barney's Wash. I received a email of an incident report filed by DEQ yesterday on this release (copy routed to file). I called KUCC and asked Rich to fill me in on the details.

Rich said the tailings spill occurred over a 15 minute period Wednesday afternoon. The (@100 Ton) spill resulted after KUCC temporarily shut down of some pumps (for maintenance) that normally recycled tailings thickner water back up to the storage reservoir. Apparently the tailings pipeline couldn't handle the additional flow of water in addition to the tailings which forced a discharge through the 1st vent pipe down line from the Copperton plant.

The spill occurred in Barneys Wash and ran down the drainage in about a 10 foot wide path eventually being impounded behind the railroad embankment near the bottom of the wash. All of the spill remained on KUCC property. Rich said the tailings were thickest near the pipeline (@3-4 inches thick) and thinned down to @ 1/8th inch at the railroad embankment. Some water still remains ponded at the embankment.

Apparently there are a few water wells belonging to the Copperton Water Improvement District located in the bottom of Barney's wash that the tailings flowed past. Clean up actions are starting in that location today with a backhoe and trucks to remove the sediments. Rich said they will be sampling the wells to determine if there was any impact to same.

Clean up actions will continue upstream to the source of the spill while they wait for the lower stretches with ponded water to dry out. A followup report is being prepared to send to the appropriate regulatory agencies. Rich will copy us with same.

Rich said that we should be seeing a copy of a new Waste Rock Management Plan for the Barney's Canyon Gold Mine within the next month or so. He said it was being prepared for DEQ, but that we would be copied for review and comment as well. He also said he had a hand in preparing the latest technical information report for DWQ on the North Tailings Impoundment Expansion (re: acid base generation potential monitoring requirement).

A COPY OF THIS EMAIL WILL BE COPIED TO THE MINE FILES: M/035/002 AND M/035/011

CC: Dennis Frederick, Mary Ann Wright